



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 18 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

As you may know, one of the outcomes of the *Cobell* litigation was the creation of the Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform (Indian Trust Commission). This five-member commission is tasked with providing recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior to improve Interior's management of Tribal and Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts and trust assets (Trust Administration System). The Commission's purpose is to provide a thorough evaluation of the existing Indian trust management and Trust Administration System to support a reasoned and factually based set of options for potential management improvements.

I am pleased to announce that Grant Thornton LLP in partnership with Cherokee Services Group has been awarded a contract to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the Department's management of the Trust Administration System in support of the Commission's efforts.

This evaluation will depend on a nationwide information gathering effort to produce meaningful recommendations. Over the next few months the management consultant will be contacting individuals, tribes and Interior bureaus and offices to discuss current approaches to trust management and recommendations for improvement. The management consultant also will be assessing past trust reform efforts and capturing current initiatives already underway which contribute to a more effective trust management effort. They do not want to "re-invent the wheel," but instead will capitalize on proven successes that are working in one bureau, region, or office that can be expanded throughout the Department.

The management consultant also will be attending the Indian Trust Commission's upcoming meetings in Nashville, Tennessee on April 29, 2013 and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on June 6 and 7, 2013.

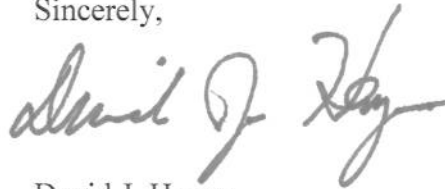
The comprehensive assessment of the Department's operation of the Trust Administration System shall include:

- Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of both the monetary and nonmonetary trust asset management activities of each office involved in the Department's Trust Administration System;
- Identifying options for transferring, consolidating, or otherwise managing the trust fund and assets to enhance accountability, responsiveness, efficiency, and customer service;
- Reviewing the Department's prior reform efforts for effectiveness and to determine whether additional reforms are necessary; and
- Determining the adequacy of the Department's current Trust Administration System audit functions and recommending options for improvement.

The comprehensive assessment is scheduled for completion by August 31, 2013, in order to provide Commission members sufficient time to review the assessment and the proposed recommendations and to make their own determination about which recommendations they present to the Secretary of the Interior, prior to the Commission's termination date of November 27, 2013.

We are looking for good, workable ideas from all sources. I thank you in advance for your participation in this important endeavor. You can obtain additional information by contacting Ms. Lizzie Marsters, my Chief of Staff and Designated Federal Official to the Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform at lizzie_marsters@ios.doi.gov or at trustcommission@ios.doi.gov or by visiting the Commission's website at <http://www.doi.gov/cobell/commission>. To provide comments or feedback directly to Grant Thornton, please send emails to Trust.Commission@us.gt.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David J. Hayes", written in a cursive style.

David J. Hayes